



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Memorandum

To: Black Oystercatcher Surveyors

From: Liz Kelly, Newport Field Office, Newport, Oregon
Elise Elliot-Smith, US Geological Survey, Corvallis, Oregon

Subject: 1st Coastwide Black Oystercatcher Survey Results

Thank you for your participation in our 1st Coastwide Black Oystercatcher Survey held in late May 2005. We are happy to report that the majority of surveyors were able to survey during the specified time period, and everyone did an excellent job of completing the datasheets and maps. Because of your efforts, the survey was a rousing success!

This year, land-based and boat-based surveys were coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Oregon for Black Oystercatchers. A preliminary count of the data indicates 323 Black Oystercatchers were recorded (Note: data for some sites may differ from your count based on subsequent survey information). For the land-based survey, a total of 54 sites were surveyed from Tillamook Head to South Chetco Cove. Two hundred and forty-eight (248) adult oystercatchers were observed, of which 150 were paired individuals. There were 11 confirmed nests (8 nests had eggs) and 12 suspected nests.

Boat surveys focused on off-shore islands between Port Orford and Brookings on the South Coast and around Cape Meares on the North Coast. A total of 75 Black Oystercatchers were recorded during the boat surveys with 1 confirmed nest.

Seventy people participated in the coastwide survey from the following: Azalea Middle School (Brookings); Coast Watch (Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition); Kalmiopsis Audubon Society; North Coast Land Conservancy; Oregon Coast Aquarium; Oregon Institute of Marine Biology; Oregon State University (Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Zoology); Port of Portland, Environmental Affairs; and Yaquina Birders and Naturalists. (If we neglected to mention your organization, please let us know so we can give recognize it in the future).

Personnel from the following agencies also participated: The Bureau of Land Management (Coos Bay District); Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (State Office, and Charleston and Gold Beach districts); Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex; the Newport Field Office (Ecological Services) and Regional Office (Portland)); and U.S. Geological Survey (Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Corvallis).

Feature articles about the 2005 Coastwide Black Oystercatcher Survey appeared in two papers: the Salem Statesman Journal (enclosed) and the Curry Coastal Pilot. These articles help increase awareness and will hopefully generate more interest in this remarkable bird. More information on the coastwide survey, including results to the follow-up surveys can be found on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Newport Field Office website. Go to: www.fws.gov/pacific/oregonfwo and click on "Field Office Locations," then "Newport".

Again, thank you for participating in the survey, and I hope you will be able to join us for the 2nd Annual Coastwide Black Oystercatcher Survey in 2006.

Enclosures

cc: Range Bayer, Yaquina Birders and Naturalists
Phillip Johnson, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
Bill Russell, Shoreline Education and Awareness
Kathy Schutt, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Shelly Parker, Haystack Rock Awareness Program
Elise Elliott-Smith, USGS FRESC
Liz Kelly, FWS, Newport Field Office
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